(d) Number of sick units to be closed would be according to Rehabilitation Schemes sanctioned by BIFR.

(e) Amount estimated to be generated through sale of the assets would be finalised in the Rehabilitation Scheme of BIRF.

Revival package for NTC mills

†747. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revival package of the National Textile Corporation mills has got delayed due to many constraints;

(b) if so, whether the Group of Ministers had already submitted their report in this regard.

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Group of Ministers;

(d) whether the Textiles Research Association has been asked to prepare the list of those mills of the National Textile Corporation which are to be revived or to be closed; and

(e) time by when the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Constraints like mobilization of resources through sale of surplus lands involving concurrence of State Governments, arriving at agreement with secured creditors for unencumbering the assets etc. delayed the finalisation of revival plans for the 8 sick subsidiaries of NTC.

(b) and (c) Government considered these at various levels including that of Group of Ministers and decided that maximum number of operationally viable mills may be revived and those, which are not revivable, may be closed after protecting workers' interest by giving attractive VRS to those effected. Government have communicated this approach to Operating Agency/BIFR and have also given 'in principle' commitment of certain financial sacrifices for revival of these companies.

(d) Textile Research Associations have studied techno-economic viability of the NTC mills and submitted Reports to Operating Agencies (OAs) of BIFR (IDBI & IFCI).

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(e) BIFR has considered the DRSs in the hearings held in Feb. 2002 and is expected to finalise the Schemes soon.

Increasing silk production and expansion of mulberry plantation

748. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under active consideration of the Union Government to increase silk production and expansion of mulberry plantation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether State Governments have submitted the proposals for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto and the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A target of 26,450 MT raw silk production is envisaged during the X Plan period as against the target of 18,395 MT raw silk production during the IX Plan period. This includes mulberry raw silk production of 24,150 MT.

(c) and (d) The State Government are sending proposals to the Central Silk Board for financial assistance under the Catalytic Development Schemes being implemented by the Central Silk Board in collaboration with the State Governments.

Study on the status of the handloom industry

749. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission had commissioned a study on the status of the handloom industry in the country with special reference to the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details and recommendations of the study;

(c) the Ministry's response to the study; and